

a rocky gully running horizontal to the main road in arid country composed of thick Karroo type vegetation. Most specimens were secured when disturbed while feeding on a tiny insignificant flower appearing in the leaf axils of a small shrub, while the odd specimen was seen to settle on the stony ground. Their flight at this time was not very swift but this could perhaps be attributed to the fact that they were intent on feeding and were reluctant to leave the food source after being disturbed. It may have also been due to the windy conditions prevailing at the time. Despite an intensive search of the locality they were observed only in the gully, no specimens being found in the neighbouring areas.

Acknowledgements

I name this species for my friend Graham Henning, and wish to thank his brother Stephen Henning for advice and encouragement in preparing this paper.

References

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THE LARVA OF ONCOCERA FORMOSA (HAWORTH) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE).—This is described by Beirne (*British Pyralid and Plume Moths*, pp. 94-95) as “deep green with the dorsal and subdorsal lines darker and edged greyish-yellowish. The spiracular and subspiracular lines are greenish-white and there is an oval black-centred white spot on each side of the second thoracic segment. The head is deep green, freckled darker”.

At Foulness, Essex, on the 28th of August, 1980, larvae feeding in the manner described for *O. formosa* were common on elm; I took four. Their ground colour, including the head, was rather dark green, harmonising exactly with the elm leaves. The pattern consisted solely of a series of interrupted, fine white lines extending from the head inclusive to the anus. The larvae were seen, but not recognised, by several microlepidopterists. One larvae died at ecdysis; the remainder produced adults from 6-13 June, 1981.

Beirne's account probably came via Meyrick and has the stamp of a careful description made by an entomologist with a larva before him. It seems likely, therefore, that the larva is dimorphic. That two similar species are being confused is possible, but unlikely. It would be useful if collectors who come across larvae of this species would make a note of their coloration.—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 15 June 1981.